

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00957 291721Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 OMB-01 SCCT-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02

ORM-02 /100 W

----- 088310

O P 291414Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8394

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00957 291721Z

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK  
COMMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
DIA WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 957

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE  
SUBJECT: LEBANON BEGINS TO PAY THE PIPER

REF: BEIRUT 871 (1230Z)

1. LEBANESE ARMY SOURCES REPORT MORNING JAN 29 THAT SITUATION THROUGHOUT COUNTRY IS GENERALLY QUIET. NEVERTHELESS, MINOR INCIDENTS ARE REPORTED IN BEIRUT WITH OCCASIONAL EXPLOSIONS (ONE ON HAMRA OVERNIGHT) AND ONE SOURCE ALLEGS AS MANY AS 25 KIDNAPPINGS HAVE OCCURRED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF COUNTRY IN LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. NEVERTHELESS, CITIZENRY STRIVING TO RETURN TO SOME KIND OF NORMAL EXISTENCE IN GREATLY IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE.

2. WITH SIX DAYS OF RELATIVE QUIET UNDER ITS BELT, LEBANON IS ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO CONSIDER LOSSES SUFFERED ADMINISTRATIVELY AS WELL AS ECONOMICALLY. ON CRUCIAL SECURITY LEVEL, OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE IS THAT INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (ISF) SPLIT ENTIRELY ALONG CHRISTIAN/MOSLEM LINES AND DOES NOT RPT NOT NOW EXIST AS EFFECTIVE FORCE. ARMY IS ON ITS KNEES AND ONLY marginally effective after splits primarily in BEKAA. THOUGH IT RETAINS SOME POLICING CAPABILITY AND IS BEING USED IN SOME RECENTLY REOPENED COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS. ELEMENTS OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY (PLA) WHICH WERE MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN WEST BEIRUT DURING FIRST SEVERAL DAYS OF CURRENT CEASEFIRE, HAVE ADOPTED MUCH LOWER PROFILE IN LAST TWO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00957 291721Z

DAYS. PURPOSE OF THIS MOVE MAY BE TO DAMPEN SOME OF THE RESENTMENT WHICH WE UNDERSTAND THEIR PRESENCE HAD BEGUN TO INSTILL IN PORTIONS OF LEBANESE MOSLEM COMMUNITY.

3. TRIPOARTITE HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL MEE JAN 29 AS IT HAS BEEN DOING DAILY. DURING JAN 28 MEETING, DECISIONS WERE TAKEN TO CONTINUE DEMOLITION OF BARRICADES AND EMPLACEMENTS IN CAPITAL AND TO CONCENTRATE ATTENTION ON

RETURN OF PERSONS DISPLACED DURING RECENT CLASHES. COMMITTEE APPARENTLY PLANS TO EMPLOY UNITS OF LEBANESE ARMY EVENTUALLY IN VARIOUS PARTS OF TOWN, INCLUDING FOUR AXES OF TRADITIONAL CONFRONTATION: (1) HOTEL DISTRICT TO PORT; (2) MARTYR'S SQUARE TO MUSEUM; (3) DEKWANEH TO MUKALLES AND BEIT MERI; AND (4) AIN RUMANNEH/SHIYAH. PRIMIN KARAME PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE JAN 28 TO THE LEBANESE ARMY AS A NATIONAL FORCE, IN WHAT IS PROBABLY THE OPENING SHOT IN A CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE PRESTIGE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF LEBANESE MILITARY.

4. LT. KHATIB, RENEGADE ARMY OFFICER IN THE BEKAA, HAS APPARENTLY BEEN ARRESTED BY SYRIANS, WHO REPORTEDLY TAKE HIS ATTACK ON ARMY ESCORT JAN 27 AS ATTACK ON SYRIA. HE WILL REPORTEDLY BE TRIED BY FIELD COURT IN DAMASCUS AND GENERAL NAJI JAMIL HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT OF WHICH HE IS ACCUSED.

5. CABINET, WHICH MET YESTERDAY, IS SLATED TO RECONVENE MONDAY FEB 2. MINISTERS HAVE DECIDED TO OPEN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY NEXT MONDAY AND URGED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY FOR WORK. A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED TO SURVEY NEEDS AND PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN GETTING GOV OFFICES BACK INTO OPERATION. MINISTER TUENI INTRODUCED SEVERAL IDEAS INTO SESSION, INCLUDING FORMATION OF RECONSTRUCTION COUNCIL OF FIVE MEMBERS. HE ALSO PROPOSED CO-OPTING MEMBERS OF ARMED GROUPS AND MILITIAS INTO A NATIONAL GUARD AS A MEANS OF BY-PASSING THE THORNY PROBLEM OF CONTROLLING THE SURFEIT OF ARMS IN PRIVATE HANDS. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON EITHER SUGGESTION, BUT THEY WILL PROBABLY SURFACE AGAIN IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

6. FRANGIE VISIT TO DAMASCUS IS STILL ON, AND, AT LAST, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 00957 291721Z

PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED. NO FIRM TIME HAS BEEN SET, BUT IT IS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT FURTHER SLIPPAGE HAS OCCURRED. PRESS IS NOW SPECULATING THAT HE WILL TRAVEL WITH KARAME AND PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER KAMAL ASSAD EARLY NEXT WEEK. PAPER CLOSEST TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE GIVES TUESDAY FEB 3 AS THE LIKELY DATE FOR THE LONG-AWAITED SUMMIT.

7. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN BEIRUT RANGES FROM ZERO IN THE OLD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO ABOUT 80 PERCENT IN THE RAOUCHE, MAZRAA AND VERDUN AREAS, BUT LOOTING REMAINS A SERIOUS PROBLEM. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE PRICE TRENDS. RETAIL PRICES ON NON-CONTROLLED FOOD ITEMS HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED BUT SHOULD BE LOWERED AS AVAILABILITY INCREASES. (SOME ITEMS ARE ALREADY EVEN COMING IN FROM THE OUTSIDE IN SMALL QUANTITIES AT THE PORTS OF TRIPOLI,

SIDON AND JOUNIE.) SUPPLIES OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS ARE MORE  
THAN AMPLE, AND DISTRIBUTION HAS IMPROVED, BUT THERE ARE  
MANY MORE PEOPLE (REFUGEES, UNEMPLOYED, ETC.) WHO LACK  
THE MEANS TO PAY FOR THEM. A TREND THAT WILL PROBABLY NOT  
CHANGE IS RISING PRICE OF BUILDING MATERIALS. CONSTRUCTION  
HAS BEEN LIMITED SO FAR TO SQUATTERS' HOUSING, BUT PRICES  
OF BASIC CONSTRUCTION ITEMS HAVE ALREADY DOUBLED.  
LAMBRAKIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, PROGRESS REPORTS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BEIRUT00957  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760034-0510  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760111/aaaaaiaq.tel  
**Line Count:** 177  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BEIRUT 871  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANON BEGINS TO PAY THE PIPER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006